

## **Install Suspended Ceiling in Rooms 245 and 245A-5, Kitchen Areas**

Project number 438-12-106

Site Visit

March 1, 2012

### **Questions and Answers:**

1. What is the background of the project and the reason for the ceiling?
  - a. The reason the ceiling is being constructed is to ensure cleanliness in the kitchen areas by keeping exposed piping and air handling units covered.
2. Please clarify the type of ceiling, such as exposed or concealed.
  - a. Concealed.
3. The solicitation refers to a brand name of Armstrong with the ceiling tiles; however, an approved product being equal to or better than may be approved by the Project Engineer. The contractor is responsible to prove that another product is truly equal to or better than the requested product.
  - a. The ceiling must be washable and rustproof
4. Please clarify the access areas and what the requirements are for those areas.
  - a. Access areas are only shown on the plan as a reference to bidders. The new ceiling must be able to be taken apart at the access locations shown on the plan provided in the solicitation.
5. Will this project be coordinated with the Construct 3W-5 Waiting Room project?
  - a. Contractors shall coordinate with other contractor and other activities at the medical center.
  - b. However, the VA is not coordinating the two projects.
6. What are the working hours for the project?
  - a. These hours are listed within the solicitation and are night time hours.
7. Please describe the existing ceiling to include the type of board.
  - a. The existing ceiling is constructed of "type x" gypsum board.
8. There is no staging area and clean-up is required every day as the kitchen will still be used during day time hours.
9. The ceiling cannot be lower than seven (7) feet. Floor to ceiling height must be a minimum of 7 feet.
10. What are the infection control requirements?
  - a. There is a preconstruction risk assessment team that will determine what is needed for this project. At a minim a HEPA filter negative air machine and poly to cover objects from dust shall be included.
11. Describe the sealant for the areas where the wall meets the ceiling; smoke seal.
  - a. The "Perimeter seal" specification is included in the solicitation regarding the sealant to be used on the walls.
12. Hair nets and facial hair nets will be required at all times while working in the kitchen areas.
13. There are requirements for the sprinkler system heads to be moved, and this must be done by a licensed professional. Please clarify.

- a. Currently the sprinkler system is compliant with NFPA. Modifications to the system must be done by someone licensed to modify the system and is an expert in NFPA to ensure compliance.
- 14. There may be some areas where pipes stick out of the suspended ceiling. This must be approved by the VA project engineer or COTR.
- 15. There are areas that will require a soffit as needed. Soffit size and location shall be approved by the VA engineer.
- 16. The key and strobe for the fire alarm will need to be flush mounted to the ceiling by a licensed electrician using the national electric code.
- 17. Please clarify the light requirements.
  - a. 2x4 lights in similar areas.
- 18. Are there mechanical requirements.
  - a. Return air grilles shall be installed as shown on the plan attached. The mechanical requirements are to test and balance the HVAC system prior to and after construction to prove the system is functioning as preconstruction condition.
- 19. Does the kitchen hood remain as is?
  - a. Yes, the kitchen hood does not move. The new ceiling will connect to the hood perimeter.
- 20. Is there a certain type of wire that should be used to hang the ceiling?
  - a. The wire shall be galvanized and the size wire is in the specifications that are included in the solicitation.